

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Intelligence Community Staff

DCI/IC-76-1244

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the Committee on Foreign Intelligence
SUBJECT: Recision of NSCID No. 7, "Critical Intelligence Communications"

1. References are:

a. The attached proposed CFI Chairman to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs requesting that the National Security Council rescind NSCID No. 7. (Tab A)

b. NSCID No. 7, effective 17 February 1972. (Tab B)

2. Executive Order 11905 contains two provisions concerning "critical intelligence."

a. Section 3 (d) (1) (xiii) provides the DCI shall:

"Establish uniform criteria for the identification, selection, and designation of relative priorities for the transmission of critical intelligence, and provide the Secretary of Defense with continuing guidance as to the communications requirements of the Intelligence Community for the transmission of such intelligence."

b. Section 4 (e) (1) (vi) provides the Secretary of Defense shall:

"Provide for the timely transmission of critical intelligence, as defined by the Director of Central Intelligence, within the United States Government."

3. The only elements of NSCID No. 7 not specifically covered by the above charges in Executive Order 11905 are as follows:

a. Paragraph 1 of NSCID No. 7 provides "there shall be established communications means for the most timely transmission of critical intelligence as defined by the Director of Central Intelligence."

(1) This is inherent in the charge to the Secretary of Defense in Section 4 (e) (1) (vi) of the Executive Order.

b. Paragraph 2 of NSCID No. 7 provides "The definition and establishment noted above (of critical intelligence and its communications means) will be subject to continuing review under procedures to be established by the Director of Central Intelligence."

(1) Provision of such review will be included as a responsibility assigned to the DCI in the update of NSCID No. 1, "Basic Duties and Responsibilities."

c. Paragraph 3 of NSCID No. 7 provides the Secretary of Defense "shall be the Executive Agent of the Government to provide for the establishment, operation and perfection of such communications means necessary to provide the most timely transmission of critical intelligence to higher authorities" and that he shall "effect coordination with other Government agencies in order that their communications facilities may be utilized to the extent deemed practicable and efficient."

(1) It is arguable whether these responsibilities are necessarily covered by the charge to the Secretary of Defense in Executive Order 11905, but they are inherent in good management of the task given to the Secretary. It is not considered there is need to retain NSCID No. 7 to state the contents of its present paragraph 3.

3. It is recommended the Committee on Foreign Intelligence approve forwarding of the memorandum at Tab A.

E. H. Knoche
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for the Intelligence Community